

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.
4-14-99

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Central House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 210 West High Street not for publication

city or town Orangeville vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Stephenson code 177 zip code 61060

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler / SHPO 4-12-99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Central House
Name of Property

Stephenson, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Rubber

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1860s - c. 1930s

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bower, John, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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CENTRAL HOUSE

Description

Orangeville, Illinois, is located in northern Stephenson County, roughly two miles from the Wisconsin border, 11 miles south of Monroe, Wisconsin, 12 miles north of Freeport, Illinois, 35 miles west of Rockford, Illinois, and 60 miles east of Dubuque, Iowa.

Central House, Orangeville, Illinois, was built in the c. 1860s by John Bower, the town founder. Central House is located at the head of the town's business district, at the "T" intersection formed by Main Street and High Street, the two major commercial streets in the town's business district. As one of the first commercial brick buildings, it became the building around which the remaining business buildings were constructed.

The footprint of the original building measures 28' x 33', and has three stories plus a partial basement. There are twenty rooms. Of these, ten were designed for sleeping. It is constructed of brick and has a stone foundation. The architectural style is mid-19th century, Italianate. It is located on the north side of the intersection of High Street and Main Street, in the center of the town business district. It is the tallest building in the downtown area, located on the highest ground, and the only three-story building. It is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the town. The original house of the town founder, John Bower, built in 1849, still remains. The five-bay carriage shed/garage located behind the hotel is a contributing building to the nomination.

Central House was operated as a hotel from the date that it opened until the 1930s, when it was converted to a single family dwelling. It has remained a single family dwelling since that time. Its historic integrity has remained intact with the following changes: A partial basement was added prior to the turn of the century. A two-story brick utility room, with a footprint of 10' x 13' was added to the rear of the building around 1911. The attached, single-story wooden utility shed on the west side was removed, probably around 1911. The wooden, second floor balcony on the front was dismantled between 1950 and 1952. Internal plumbing was added, probably around 1911. Electricity was added, probably in the 1920s. The kitchen built around 1911 was moved to the main building, probably in the early 1940s. The two first floor entryways on the west side were sealed, probably around 1911. The pot-bellied stove heating system was replaced with radiator hot water heat around 1920s. This boiler/hot-water heat system was replaced with gas heaters, probably in the early 1960s. The hotel, when originally built, was unnamed. However, when the Illinois Central Railroad began putting tracks through the town in 1887, the hotel mounted a sign on the exterior front wall of the third floor, "Central House." This wooden sign was removed due to deterioration, probably in the 1930s.

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Exterior

The hotel is three stories high with a partial basement. The building is a stand-alone building, with an unconnected five-bay wooden garage located behind it on the same property. The garage dates back at least to the 1910s, for Mr. John Musser, a nonagenarian Orangeville native, remembers it as "always having been there." The garage maintains its original wood construction but has had a roof replacement, date unknown. There are arched segmental one-on-one windows on all floors on all sides of the hotel. Most window parts seem original, and most can be restored. All window frames are wooden. As with the rest of the building, the windows' shallow hood moldings are soft brick. All of the windows are double-hung with the exception of the first floor northeast corner on both the north wall and east wall. Mr. Musser remembers the construction of the two-story utility room around 1911. An interview with the daughter of the owner at that time, Henry Bolender, identified that the utility room was built to serve as the primary kitchen for the hotel guests.

South facade: The south facade is three bays wide. There is a set of two windows on all three floors, one on each side of the entry on the first and second floor, and a repeat of this pattern, without the entry on the third floor. There are double entry doors on the first and second floor in the center of the facade. Original front doors remain in place on all but the first floor, east side. There are arched transoms over the double door entrances on both floors. These window lights have been boarded over for many years. The first floor entry originally was comprised of two doors. However, one door was sealed, between 1950 and 1952, according to community members. The original door on the east side of the first floor was replaced with a c. 1950s door and storm door. The front porch and original balcony measured 18 feet across, ten feet deep at either end, and twelve feet deep at the center. Because of deterioration, and for the sake of safety, the balcony was removed between 1950 and 1952 according to interviews with community members, and the front entrance doors to the second floor were nailed shut and sealed at that time. This front balcony served as the only exterior entrance to the second floor, opening into the double parlor, the main social gathering place in the building. A photograph from the turn of the century clearly shows four wooden posts supporting the porch/balcony. This photo shows the stairs leading from the ground to the balcony on the east side of the balcony. The exterior south wall of the third floor sported the "Central House" sign. The discolored brick reflects its location, and the turn-of-the-century photo shows the sign in place.

East facade: There are four windows per floor. The window on the north end of the east wall of the first floor is a half window and is not double-hung. The room for which this window

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provides light was built as a storage or utility room. The east chimney remains standing. The top has deteriorated with age. The exterior of the chimney from bottom to top was covered with concrete, probably in the 1940s, and needs to be recovered. The two-story utility room at the rear of the building, added around 1911, has one window on the first floor and one window on the second floor.

North facade: The original hotel had three windows on each floor, all but two of which were double-hung. The addition of the two-story utility room around 1911 removed the center windows on the first and second floor, substituting doors. The middle window on the third floor remains functional. The small window on the east side of the first floor is not double-hung. It provides north light to the northeast storage or utility room in the main hotel building. There are no openings on the north wall of the utility room addition. There is a wooden soffit around the top of the utility room which supports the flat roof. This soffit has deteriorated and needs replacing. There is a concrete foundation below the double window on the west side of the north wall of the main building. The age and condition make it probable that the concrete was poured when the basement was dug before the turn of the century. To the west of the addition on the first story is a pair of double-hung windows which provided light to what originally was a passageway to the utility shed.

West facade: The second and third floors each have four double-hung windows of the same size. On the first floor there were two windows and two doors. The first floor windows remain in place and are original. The door on the north end led to the single-story wooden utility shed which was removed early in the century. The door then was sealed by a single layer of bricks. South of this is a window. Below this window is a coal chute opening. This has been sealed from the basement, probably in the early 1940s, when it is estimated the coal-fired boiler was replaced with a gas-fired boiler. To the south of this window is a door which connected the dining room to the exterior. This doorway, too, was sealed by a single layer of bricks. The bricks which have sealed the doorways match, leading to the supposition that these two doors were sealed at the same time. From the interview with Mr. Musser, these modifications probably were made around 1911. Another window is to the south of this bricked-in doorway. The entrance door to the first floor utility room addition serves as the only first floor entrance other than the front entrance. The condition and style of the door to the utility room addition make it feasible that the door is original to the utility room. There is a double-hung window on both floors of the west wall of the utility room. The utility room addition has a door on the first floor and a segmental one-on-one window to the north of the door. On the second floor, there is a segmental one-on-one window.

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Interior

All walls and ceilings are plaster. All floors are mostly soft wood--yellow pine. With the exception of the addition of internal plumbing, electricity, and heating systems, little renovation has taken place in the interior of the hotel. Original wallpaper, although in extremely poor condition, is in place in some of the rooms on the second and third floors. In some areas, original natural-wood woodwork was painted over, but with the exception of two interior doors, all interior doors seem to be in place. Prior to the turn of the century, a partial basement was added to the north half of the main hotel. Around 1911, a two-story utility room was added to the rear of the hotel to provide a main kitchen for food preparation for hotel guests. Internal plumbing and electricity were added later, probably in the twenties. In most cases, original electrical wiring remains in place. Around the turn of the century, the pot-bellied stove heating system was replaced with a centralized boiler and hot water heat system (the reason for the addition of the basement), which in-turn was replaced with a wall-mounted gas heater system, probably in the early 1960s. Most chimney flu openings have been sealed. The original passageway between the main hotel and the wooden utility room on the west side was converted to a serving kitchen around 1911 when the utility room addition was built. This serving kitchen was modernized in the 1940s or 1950s from the age of the fixtures currently in place, after the building had stopped functioning as a hotel. During this modernization, cabinets were installed, sealing what was a pass-through between the serving kitchen and the dining room.

First Floor

From the front entry, east door (the west door is nailed shut, sealed, and plastered over from the inside and plywooded- over from the exterior), one enters the original lobby/registration area of the hotel. This was built to be functional, and offers little of high quality or style. The ceilings and walls are plaster with bead-board wainscoting about three feet high in the lobby/registration area. All trim, walls, and ceilings are painted white which has aged to a dirty, off-white.

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Scraping of the white paint from the woodwork reveals that the interior woodwork (window and door trim) originally was natural pine, probably later varnished, then much later painted. The original floor in the lobby is quite worn, and is of yellow pine and hickory. Directly north of the entry doorway and across the registration room is the door which leads to the interior stairway. On the east side of the north wall of the lobby is a doorway which leads to the storage/utility room in the main hotel. This northeast section of the hotel, which comprises more than one-fourth of the first floor, was never developed. In this large utility room, there is a large hole in the floor (about 6' x 8") where the pipes from the furnace for the radiator system extrude from the basement. The remaining floored area of the utility room houses a toilet, shower, and sink which, from the dated look of the stool and shower, probably were installed in the 1940s or 1950s. The sink, which originally was in the utility room addition, probably was moved into this area at that time. The lobby, utility room, and stairwell encompass the east half of the first floor. At the northwest end of the utility room, a doorway leads to what once was the passageway to the connected wooden utility shed, but now is a short hallway leading to the "modernized" kitchen.

On the north side of the hallway is the entrance to the utility room addition. According to an interview with John Musser, who remembers the construction of the addition taking place, the utility rooms were built when he was a child by Henry Bolender, around 1911. The floor of the utility room, too, is of yellow pine. The floor and joists of the first floor utility room have deteriorated beyond saving. There is an 18" to 2' crawl space under the utility room. This room is painted light green and has bead-board wainscoting, also. Interviews with the daughter of Henry Bolender, who lived in and grew up in the hotel, reveal that this room was used as the main kitchen in the teens, twenties, and thirties. There is an internal chimney which served both floors of the addition. The exterior top of this chimney was removed many years ago and roofed-over. There is no visible sign of this north chimney from the exterior of the building.

In the short hallway, directly across from the door on the north that leads to the utility room addition, is the doorway to the basement on the left. Continuing west, one enters what served as the serving kitchen in the teens, twenties, and thirties. The turn-of-the-century photo indicates that this room probably served originally as the passageway between the wooden utility shed and the hotel until the shed was removed and the exterior door was sealed. At the time the shed was removed, the doorway was sealed, and the utility area was built, this area was converted to a serving kitchen with pass-through into the dining room. After the hotel was converted to a single family dwelling, this area later was converted to the main kitchen. It was probably during the conversion (late 1940s or early 1950s) that the pass-through was sealed and cupboards were

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installed along the south wall of the kitchen. Going south from the kitchen, one enters what once was the dining room. As a single family unit after the 1930s, this "great" room served as both dining and living area. The kitchen and "great" room comprise the west half of the first floor of the main building. The kitchen and dining room were built to be functional and offer no hardwood or decoration. There is no wainscoting.

Second Floor

The stairway to the second floor is enclosed and has no balustrade. The steps are extremely worn, but functional. The second floor, especially the parlor area and area leading into the parlor, was built to be the most ornate area of the hotel.

Beginning on the second floor and leading to the third floor, the stairway has an ornate balustrade. Windows are surrounded by natural pine trim, some reflecting the original varnish. Others have been painted over with white paint. Most transoms have been painted white, although they are over doors which maintain the original natural wood. The main double exterior entrance on the south from the balcony opens into a west and east parlor with four-foot wide (currently non-functional) pocket doors separating the two parlors. However, the original pocket doors remain in place. >From each parlor, a set of solid pine French doors open into an adjacent room to the north. Placement of flu holes high in the shared walls between each parlor and its adjacent room to the north indicate that stoves sat in each parlor, and the stove pipes led to the east and west chimney at the center of each wall. A chimney is located and visible at the center of the exterior east wall. However, the chimney on the west wall was an interior chimney and is not visible from the outside. Both chimneys are visible in the interior of each of these north adjacent rooms. The exterior top of the west chimney was removed long ago and covered with the flat roof.

According to the Henry Bolender's daughter, Bonnie Bolender Johnson, who lived in the hotel, these two rooms off of the parlor originally were rental rooms, and could be opened to the parlor as suites. The second floor east and west parlors served as the social gathering location in Orangeville from the opening of the hotel in the mid to late 1800s until they were converted to a coin shop in the 1910s. The heart of the hotel is captured in this double parlor, which measures 13 ½' deep, and combined, 28 feet wide. Nothing else in the hotel comes close to its grandeur. Following the purchase of the hotel by Henry Bolender in 1911, his son Milferd used these parlors for his coin shop. The floor in the adjacent room north of the east parlor has had sub-flooring nailed to it, so the yellow pine flooring may be in very bad condition. Two single doors

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lead from the double parlor to the hallway which also services the remaining rooms on the floor. The remaining two rooms (one east and one west on the north end) originally served as single sleeping rooms. Probably in the 1920s, the northeast room was converted to a bathroom with interior plumbing. The original chicken-foot tub is still in the room, and a high-tank toilet, although no longer installed and working, remains on the property. Henry Bolender's daughter remembers both fixtures well. At the center of the north end of the hallway, a door opens into the second floor of the utility room. Like the first floor utility room, there is wainscoting on the walls. There remains one unattached gas jet on the east wall. Although a visible chimney runs from floor to ceiling on the interior of the north wall, there is no sign of a flu or that a stove was attached on this floor. This north chimney is not visible from the exterior of the property.

Third Floor

The north three-quarters of the third floor is comprised of six sleeping rooms. The south quarter of the floor is comprised of an east and west parlor. These southernmost parlors are over the second floor parlors. However, these parlors measure only 9 ½ feet deep versus 13 ½ feet on the second floor, and do not offer egress to the exterior of the building. These parlors have solid, double doors into the rooms immediately to the north so that, like the second floor, these rooms probably served as common rooms for the residents as well as rental suites. Like the second floor, single doors enter the hallway from the east and west parlors. Instead of the pocket doors on the second floor, solid double doors separate the east and west parlors. A leaky roof over many years has caused tremendous deterioration of the plaster ceilings and walls on this floor, and has severely damaged much of the yellow pine flooring. There is no plumbing on the third floor, although there is a roof cistern which fed a sink (now missing) on this floor, probably when the hotel was built.

Basement

The basement is not original to the building, but was added probably before the turn of the century. Discussion with John Musser who grew up in Orangeville and played in the hotel as a child revealed that the basement was there from his first recollection in the 1910s. Other than the now-closed coal chute, the only entrance to the basement is through the interior doorway in the kitchen hallway. It is a partial basement, and was dug to support a coal-fired boiler system and coal storage. Walls are concrete, stone, and brick. The floor is concrete. It lies under the north half of the main building.

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Carriage Shed/Garage

Originally behind the hotel was a livery and stable. There is no documentation or evidence to support the idea that the current carriage shed/garage dates back to the construction of the hotel (c. 1860s). However, the current garage can be dated back to at least 1910, for John Musser remembers the same garage as "always having been there." This garage was used for storage of guest's carriages and later, motor vehicles, as well as storage of family members' vehicles. The garage is constructed of wood with an asphalt shingle roof. The siding is wooden lap board.

North and East Facades

There are no openings on the north or east facades.

West Facade

On the west facade, there are two windows, one providing light to the western bay, the other providing light to the overhead storage area which runs the length of the garage.

South Facade

There are double-door openings to five equal-sized bays, each divided from the next by solid wooden plank walls. On the east end of the south facade, the fifth bay is supported by an attached shop. This shop has a single door entrance and to the east of the door, a segmented one-on-one window. The solid wooden doors to the bays are hinged and swing outward, opening in the middle.

Interior

The concrete flooring seems original. Access to the overhead storage is gained through the shop. Condition of the electric wiring indicates it was installed at the same time as that for the hotel, c. 1920s.

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Statement of Significance

Central House is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and qualifies for Criterion A for commerce for its role in providing lodging and dining facilities for guests, travelers, and businessmen, and a social gathering area for the citizens of Orangeville. Its period of significance is c. 1860s, when it is believed to have been built and opened as a commercial establishment, until c. 1930s when it became a single family dwelling.

According to the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Plano Hotel, Plano, Illinois the hotels built in the Midwest in the mid-1800s to support rural communities generally were two or three stories with a parlor, dining room, and rooms aligned along a central hall. Central House is typical of the time period and of small town hotels, fitting this description exactly.

According to a booklet on stagecoach roads in Stephenson County, Orangeville and the hotel were located on the Freeport to Monroe, Wisconsin, stagecoach road. According to *The History of Stephenson County*, 1970, in the 1850s, a stagecoach came to Orangeville weekly. Later, this became a twice weekly stage, bringing mail, passengers, and of course, visitors to the hotel. In 1888, with the opening of the Illinois Central Railroad line, the hotel became the lodging of choice for salesmen and visitors to Orangeville.

Central House easily met the needs for good food, lodging, and a meeting place. The hotel was built in a time when Orangeville was beginning to grow. When it was built, it was sited to serve as the central commercial building for the town, for it sits on lot #1 of the Bowers addition to Orangeville, on the highest ground in the downtown district, and at the head of the intersection of Main Street and High Street, the major streets of commerce in the town. Central House remains to date the only three story building in the business district. The hotel is one of the oldest buildings in Orangeville surviving today, and the only hotel in the history of the town. According to *Biographical Sketches of 1870*, Bower's son William was serving that year as the manager of the hotel. Therefore the hotel was built before 1870. From *Biographical Sketches of 1870*:

JOHN BOWER, retired farmer, Orangeville, born in Union County, Penn, June 30 1805; visited Stephenson Co in 1843, and returned for his family; on coming West then, he settled in Oneco, in April, 1846; while in Pennsylvania, he learned the carpenter trade, which he followed until coming West: in the spring of 1846, he located on Sec. 36, and

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built not four rods from where the Orangeville tavern now stands; he had also bought the water tower, and in 1848, started Bower's grist mill, now called White Hall Mills; he laid out the village of Orangeville, then called Bowerville, and now owns considerable town property, together with the hotel which his son William runs.

The hotel served for at least 60 years as a hotel before being converted to a single family dwelling.

In 1911, the hotel was sold to Henry Bolender from the Bower estate. Henry Bolender placed his son, Steward E. Bolender with S.E.'s family, in the hotel, as the operator. In the 1910s, Milferd Bolender, son of S.E. Bolender, ran his coin business out of the second floor of the hotel. According to the *History of Stephenson County*, 1970, p. 135, "At one time, his annual auctions of rare coins, conducted by mail, were the largest in the country. For years his advertisement filled the back cover of every issue of "Hobbies Magazine." His international reputation as a coin dealer and appraiser led him to travel widely. When friends in Freeport inherited a heavy bag of ancient Siamese silver bullet money, Mr. Bolender's careful management could not prevent the sale of so many pieces from lowering the price all over the world twenty-five per cent." When S.E. Bolender and family moved into the hotel in 1911, the first floor continued to serve as the lobby for guest registration and the dining room where meals were served to the lodgers. The third floor continued to serve as lodging rooms, but the second floor was converted to family use. From interviews with Bonnie Bolender Johnson and Paul Bolender, daughter and son of Glen Bolender and granddaughter and grandson of S.E. Bolender, both frequent visitors to the hotel during the period of their childhood, c. 1920s-1930s:

The cooking was done in the room at the back of the building (the utility addition). The room off the kitchen (the main floor utility room) is where they washed dishes. That room is where Grandfather (S.E.) sat by the opening in the floor where the furnace was. There was a railing that surrounded that opening to the basement and he sat by that to warm himself. In the front east room (lobby and registration area), there was a front desk and few chairs and a small table in the corner. Men would come and sit in that room and Steward would sit behind the desk and play his Jews' harp to entertain them. ... (In the dining room) there was a piano on the west wall and a long table in the center of the room. Mrs. Bolender (Grandmother/Clara) had a chair that she sat at the front window and watched the "goings-on" out on High Street.

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Commerce

John Bower came to Stephenson County in 1844, and purchased the land that was to become Orangeville in 1846. "Mr. Bower brought wagon loads of good lumber from Galena and Chicago to entice settlers." (*History of Stephenson County*, 1970, p. 133). The first physician, Dr. W. P. Naramore, came to the immediate area in 1846. Bower built a grist mill in 1849, followed by supporting businesses such as a blacksmith shop. He also built the first brick house the same year. It still remains in use. The grist mill and supporting businesses soon began to draw settlers and serve a growing community as well as the rural area. Also in 1849, Charles Moore, who became the first President of the Board of the town when it was incorporated in 1867, built a residence. George Hoffman built a store, and several farmers also built houses in the growing community. In 1850, a stagecoach began serving Bowersville, first weekly, then twice weekly. The cornerstone for the first church was laid in September 1852.

In 1854, a post office was established. According to speculation, the name Bowersville already had been taken in Illinois, so the name was changed to Orangeville. The second church, the United Brethren Church, was established in 1856, with the building being constructed in 1857. The Musser store was opened in 1866 and Orangeville was incorporated in 1867. By this time, Orangeville had grown in size and stature, and was serving the community and the settlers well. The year of incorporation, saw mills were built. The village government built bridges over the Richland Creek and installed oil street lamps. In 1868, the J.R. Scroggs Odd Fellows Lodge Number 372, was opened on High Street, and in 1872, the Orangeville Masonic Lodge Number 687 was formed. Although there is no record of the opening of the first school, the second was built and opened in 1874, and was used until 1967.

In 1879, Orangeville opened its first bank, located in the back of the Musser store. The Musser store went on to become one of the largest in the area in the 1880s. Also during this period, a drug store and saddle and harness shop opened, and a shoemaker set up business. In 1879, the Orangeville Creamery opened, which churned 1,400 pounds of butter daily. In 1883, Orangeville's first newspaper, the *Alert*, began publication. In 1889, it was renamed the *Orangeville Courier*. It was also in the 1880s that the first physicians built a residence in Orangeville, Dr. William and Dr. Linda Hutchins.

In the year 1887, the Madison branch of the Illinois Central Railroad began laying tracks through Orangeville, and a depot, stockyards, and grain warehouse were built. The rail line completed the link between Freeport and Madison in 1888. The village at once became a place of great

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importance. (*History of Stephenson County*, 1970, p. 420). From the *Freeport Journal Standard*, 3 August, 1887, under the sub-heading *Orangeville*:

One is struck with the number of strangers in town. A great many parties come to see what prospect for business. We dare say, that nowhere can be found a better place to invest several thousand dollars than right here, in dry-goods and clothing, also several other lines of business are not represented, furniture, planing mill, carriage factory, etc....

It was at the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad that the hotel became Central House. Because of the coming of the railroad, and publicity such as the newspaper article above, 14 new buildings were built in Orangeville in 1888. Along with these buildings, the cornerstone for the Methodist Episcopal Church was laid in 1888. A patent medicine factory was opened in 1893, but remained in business only for a few years.

In 1895, Orangeville built its first village hall, set up the waterworks in 1897, and the Orangeville Volunteer Fire Company One was organized in 1898, once the village had installed water mains and hydrants. The town built a water tower in 1910. Also in 1910, Orangeville's first electric plant was put into operation.

Orangeville continued to grow and prosper, at least until the Depression. The Orangeville Creamery, which began operation in 1879, closed in 1915. However, from 1917 until 1933, Borden Condensed Milk Company had a plant in Orangeville. High school was added to the curriculum of the Orangeville school in 1910, with the second year added in 1915, and the curriculum completed with the fourth in 1919. According to *The History of Stephenson County*, 1910, p. 403, Orangeville by that time was the third largest settlement in Stephenson County, and claimed "two banks, four churches, a large number of lodges and fraternal organizations, one newspaper, and a number of commercial enterprises, including the Orangeville mills."

The hotel has had few owners over the years. The hotel passed from the Bower estate to be auctioned off on the courthouse steps to Henry Bolender in 1911. It was during the era of the Bolender ownership that the hotel was converted to a single family dwelling. The Bolender estate sold the hotel to the Harens in 1950. The Harens never lived in the hotel, but rented to the Van Houtens, who purchased it in 1961. In 1997, the owner and current resident, Lloyd Van Houten, died and Central House was sold to John C. and Caryl L. Buford in September, 1998.

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At present, the building is vacant and awaiting restoration. Plans are to create a rental duplex, the first floor serving as one apartment, floors two and three serving as a second apartment. For over 60 years, Central House served as a focal point for commerce and social gathering in the heart of Orangeville, Illinois. It stands today as a proud reminder of the history and the growth of the community.

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Business Directory of Stephenson County for 1876-7 (Gardner & Gaines, Journal Steam Book and Job Office, Vol 1, SEPT. 1876, Freeport, IL)

County and City Data Book, 1952 (United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, 1952)

The Editor and Publisher Market Guide for 1955 (The Editor and Publisher Company, New York, 1955)

Fare Thee Well, Palaces and Plush for the Populace (Leslie Dorsey and Janice Devine, Crown Publishers, Inc. New York, 1964)

Freeport Journal Standard, Orangeville (3 AUG 1887)

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Freeport Journal Standard, Classmates of 1880 Entertained by Mrs. S. Bolender (13 AUG 1943)

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History of Stephenson County, 1970, (Kable Printing Co, Mt Morris, IL, 1972)

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CENTRAL HOUSE

In the Footprints of the Pioneers, A Genealogical Record (Pioneer Publishing Co, Freeport, IL, 1900)

Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois: No. 89, Stephenson County (The Historical Records Survey, Chicago, 1938)

Orangeville Plat Map

*Orangeville Courier** (Saturday, April 18, 1891)

Orangeville, Illinois Cemetery Records, Cemetery Inscriptions Volume 1 from the Freeport Public Library, page 25 a list of names from area cemeteries including the Orangeville Cemetery on IL Route 26N

Portrait and Biographical Album of Stephenson County, IL (Chicago Chapman Brothers, 1888)

Railroads of Southern and Southwestern Wisconsin: Development to Decline (Danile J. Lanz, Monroe, WI, 1985)

The Rand McNally Commercial Atlas for 1955 (Rand McNally Company, 1955)

Stephenson County Residents, Newspaper Articles, Freeport Public Library Scrapbook

This is Stephenson County, Illinois (John Drury, American Aerial County History Series No. 27, Loree Com, Chicago, IL, 1955)

Western Historical Company, 1880, Windmill Publications, Inc., 1990 reprint.

* The *Orangeville Courier* was purchased by H.V. Hartzell in 1888 from Louis Hutchins and was then published continuously until January 1933 weekly. *The ALERT* was the first Orangeville newspaper, 1883-1889

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CENTRAL HOUSE

INTERVIEWS

Bolender, Paul, Roscoe, IL. Grew up in hotel, teens, twenties.

Bolender, Genese Sowl, Roscoe, IL. Wife of Paul, spent much time with Bolender family at hotel.

Johnson, Bonnie Bolender, Janesville, WI. Grew up in hotel, teens, twenties, thirties.

Musser, John, Orangeville, IL. Nonagenarian (95 at time of interview) who grew up in Orangeville and played with the Bolender children.

Naffa, Ethel Confer, Camarillo, California. Octogenarian who grew up in Orangeville.

Ross, Janet Noble, German Valley, IL. Octogenarian who grew up in Orangeville.

Scheider, Katherine Burrington, Orangeville, IL. Octogenarian who grew up in Orangeville.

Staderman, Ellen, Freeport, IL. Researched Freeport War Monument.

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CENTRAL HOUSE

Verbal Boundary Description

“The property commonly known as 210 W. High Street, Orangeville, Illinois 61060, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, and legally described as follows:

Lot Number One (1) in Bower’s Addition to the Village of Orangeville. Situated in the Village of Orangeville, county of Stephenson in the State of Illinois.

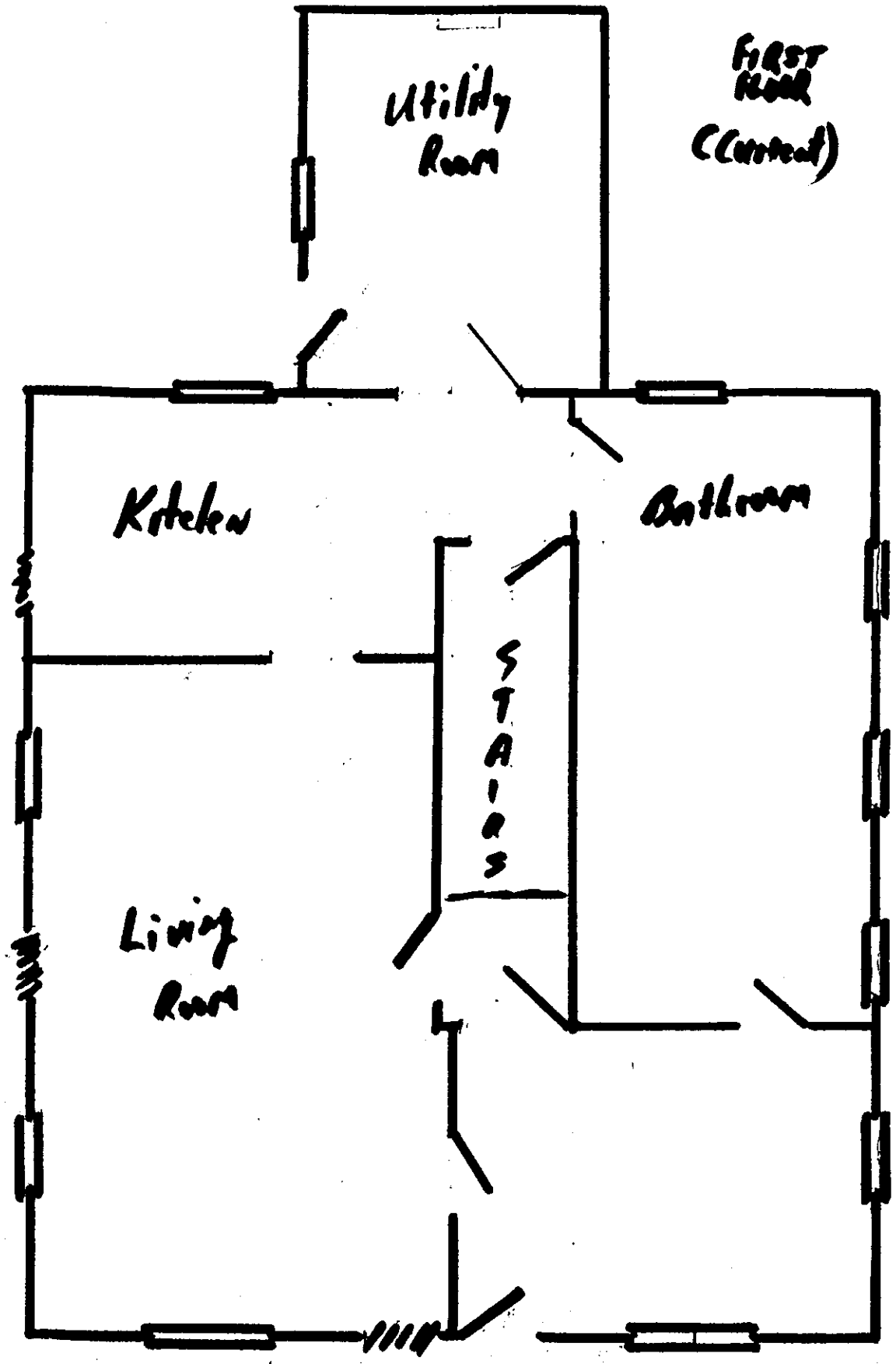
Permanent Index Number(s) 89-16-36-177-003.

Boundary Justification

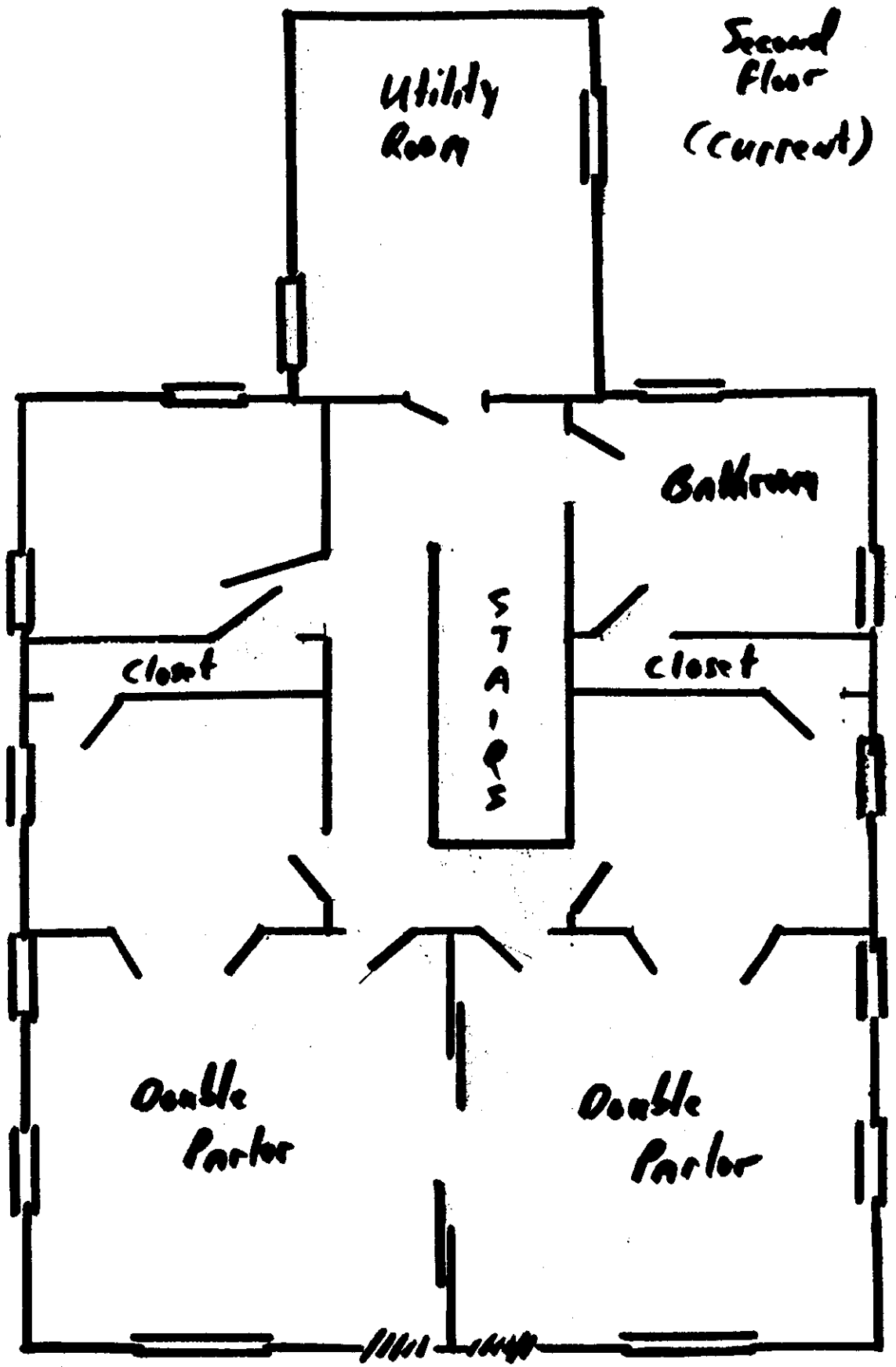
The boundary includes the buildings and lot historically associated with Central House.

27

1



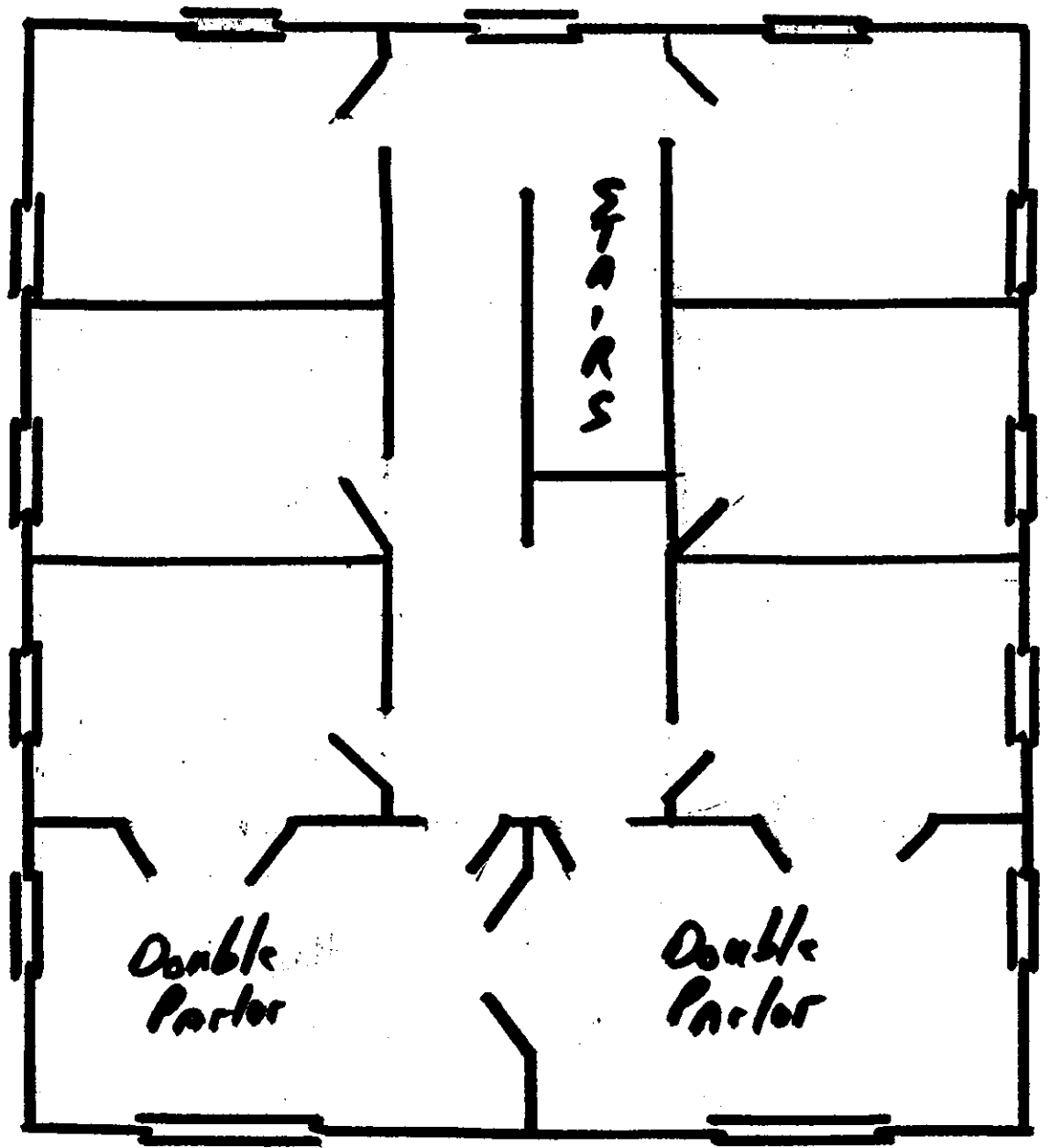
CENTRAL HOUSE
ORANGEVILLE, IL



CENTRAL HOUSE
ORANGEVILLE, IL

2
←

Third
Floor
(Current)



CENTRAL HOUSE
ORANGEVILLE, IL



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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MAY 28 1999

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 5/17/99 THROUGH 5/21/99

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, SEBASTIAN COUNTY, Fort Smith National Cemetery, 522 Garland Ave. and S. 6th St., Port Smith, 99000578, LISTED, 5/20/99 (Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS)

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Willmore, The, 315 W. Third St., Long Beach, 99000579, LISTED, 5/20/99

CALIFORNIA, MODOC COUNTY, Jess Valley Schoolhouse, Cty. Rd. 64, Likely vicinity, 99000582, LISTED, 5/20/99

CALIFORNIA, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, Allen, Theophilus, House, 601 Melville Ave., Palo Alto, 99000580, LISTED, 5/20/99

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Palmer, Hiram, House, 703 E. Fort St., Farmington, 99000589, LISTED, 5/20/99

ILLINOIS, KANE COUNTY, Holy Cross Church, 14 N. Van Buren St., Batavia, 99000587, LISTED, 5/20/99

ILLINOIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY, Central House, 210 W. High St., Orangeville, 99000585, LISTED, 5/20/99

ILLINOIS, TAZEWELL COUNTY, Third St. Bridge, Third St., bet. Pine and Elm Sts., Delavan, 99000586, LISTED, 5/20/99

LOUISIANA, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, Port Hudson National Cemetery, 20978 Port Hickey Rd., Zachary, 99000591, LISTED, 5/20/99 (Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS)

LOUISIANA, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, Southern University Historic District, Netterville Dr. and Swan Ave., Baton Rouge, 99000590, LISTED, 5/20/99

LOUISIANA, LA SALLE PARISH, Trout--Good Pine School, School Rd., Good Pine, 99000592, LISTED, 5/20/99

MISSISSIPPI, WILKINSON COUNTY, Woodville Historic District (Boundary Increase II), Roughly along Depot, First West, Main, Second South, Sligo, Third South, and Water Sts., Woodville, 99000594, LISTED, 5/20/99

MISSOURI, BUCHANAN COUNTY, St. Joseph Public Library--Carnegie Branch, 316 Massachusetts St., St. Joseph, 99000595, LISTED, 5/20/99

MISSOURI, PULASKI COUNTY, Onyx Cave, 14705 Private Drive 8541, Newburg vicinity, 99000529, LISTED, 5/21/99

MONTANA, GALLATIN COUNTY, Adams Block, 123 Main St., Three Forks, 99000597, LISTED, 5/20/99

MONTANA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, Mann Gulch Wildfire Historic District, Mann Gulch, tributary of the Missouri River, Helena vicinity, 99000596, LISTED, 5/19/99

NEW YORK, DELAWARE COUNTY, Christ Episcopal Church, 41 Gardiner Pl., Walton, 99000563, LISTED, 5/18/99

OKLAHOMA, MUSKOGEE COUNTY, Fort Gibson National Cemetery, 1423 Cemetery Rd., Fort Gibson, 99000601, LISTED, 5/20/99 (Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS)

OREGON, CLATSOP COUNTY, Leinenweber, Christian, House, 3480 Franklin Ave., Astoria, 99000604, LISTED, 5/20/99

OREGON, DESCHUTES COUNTY, Moore, Robert D., House, 545 NW Congress St., Bend, 99000603, LISTED, 5/19/99

OREGON, LINCOLN COUNTY, Pacific Spruce Saw Mill Tenant Houses, 146, 162, 178, and 192 NE Sixth St., Toledo, 99000602, LISTED, 5/20/99

OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Cobb, Samuel, House, 1314 SE 55th Ave., Portland, 99000607, LISTED, 5/20/99

OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Holden, William B., House, 6347 SE Yamhill, Portland, 99000605, LISTED, 5/20/99

OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Miller, Claude Hayes, House, 13051 SE Claybourne St., Portland, 99000606, LISTED, 5/20/99

PENNSYLVANIA, BRADFORD COUNTY, Welles, Ellen and Charles F., House, 1 Grovedale Ln., Wyalusing Township, 99000608, LISTED, 5/20/99

PENNSYLVANIA, FAYETTE COUNTY, Oak Hill Estate, US 40, 0.25 mi. W of US 119, North Union Township, 99000514, LISTED, 5/12/99

SOUTH CAROLINA, SPARTANBURG COUNTY, New Hope Farm, 10088 Greenville Hwy., Wellford, 98000558, LISTED, 5/20/99

TEXAS, HARDIN COUNTY, Kirby--Hill House, 210 Main St., Kountze, 99000610, LISTED, 5/20/99

UTAH, CARBON COUNTY, Clerico Commercial Building, 4985 N. Spring Glen Rd., Spring Glen, 99000619, LISTED, 5/20/99

UTAH, CARBON COUNTY, Manina, Camillo, House, Approx. 1756 W 400 N, Spring Glenn, 99000618, LISTED, 5/20/99

UTAH, SALT LAKE COUNTY, Silver Brothers' Iron Works Office and Warehouse, 550 W 700 S, Salt Lake City, 99000622, LISTED, 5/20/99 (Salt Lake City Business District MRA)

VERMONT, CALEDONIA COUNTY, Mathewson Block, Jct. of Main St. and Maple St., Lyndon, 99000623, LISTED, 5/20/99